



**American
Red Cross**

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**AMERICAN RED CROSS EMPLOYEES TO HELP SCOTLAND AND ROBESON
COUNTY RESIDENTS “BE RED CROSS READY” DURING NATIONAL PREPAREDNESS
MONTH 2007**

*New Tools Will Help Families, Schools, Businesses, and Communities
Get Prepared in Three Simple Actions*

As we approach peak hurricane season on the heels of a national survey that revealed only seven percent of Americans have taken the recommended actions to prepare for disasters, the Scotland County Chapter and the Robeson County Branch joins a nationwide effort to help communities get prepared during National Preparedness Month. Red Cross chapters across the country will conduct activities and outreach to help individuals, families, schools and businesses take action to “Be Red Cross Ready” for all types of disasters and emergencies by: 1) getting a kit, 2) making a plan, and 3) being informed.

“The Scotland County Chapter and the Robeson County Branch will always be there to provide relief in times of disasters, and we’re also in communities everyday teaching people the skills they need to prepare for and keep their families safer in a disaster or emergency,” said JoAnn Faulkner, Preparedness Director.

To keep preparedness on the forefront of people’s thoughts and daily activities throughout the month, the American Red Cross will offer disaster preparedness and life saving training classes. In addition, we have online links that can be accessed right from your work or home so you can be better prepared. These links are in English and Spanish. They are:

<http://www.redcross.org/flash/brr/English-flash/default.asp>

<http://www.redcross.org/flash/brr/sp/page237.html>

Residents may also send an email to beredcrossready@bellsouth.net and a staff member will reply with a link to these websites.

Both offices will make available new preparedness information for children, families, non-English speakers, senior citizens and pets, including: a new *Masters of Disaster*® disaster preparedness curriculum in customized formats for both families and educators that teaches children how to prevent, prepare for and respond to disasters and other emergencies, new disaster emergency preparedness brochures in Korean, Chinese, Spanish and Vietnamese; and a revised brochure, *Disaster Preparedness For Seniors By Seniors*.

There are three simple actions anyone can take to “Be Red Cross Ready” for a disaster or emergency: 1) get a kit, 2) make a plan and 3) be informed. Specifically, the American Red Cross recommends:

- 1) Families assemble or buy a disaster supplies kit containing at least three days of provisions in an easy-to-carry container, like a backpack. It's also important to check that stock every six months and replace expired items.
- 2) As part of your family communications plan, each person should know how to reach family members, including an out-of-area contact, and where to meet if they can't go home.
- 3) Families should learn about what resources are available to them and what types of disasters are most likely to occur where they live, work and play, and take first aid and CPR courses—a vital component of disaster preparedness.

“Preparing ahead of time will help you respond better in a disaster or emergency, and may even save your life,” Pat Smartt, Robeson County Branch Manager. “Prepared citizens help to create prepared communities. And two great ways for people to help prepare our community are by volunteering and donating blood.”

National Preparedness Month is a coordinated, nationwide effort sponsored each September by the Department of Homeland Security to raise awareness about the importance of emergency preparedness and encourage individuals to take action. The American Red Cross has participated in National Preparedness Month efforts from its inception.

The American Red Cross and Harris Interactive conducted the online survey of more than 2,500 respondents from April 10-16, 2007. Results also found that sixty-nine percent of Americans living in hurricane-prone states don't have a disaster supplies kit, and 60% don't have an evacuation plan.

For more information, including downloadable resources, regarding how individuals and families can prepare for disasters visit www.redcross.org/BeRedCrossReady or contact the Scotland County Chapter at 910-276-0600 and the Robeson County Branch at 910-738-5057.

The American Red Cross helps people prevent, prepare for and respond to emergencies. Last year, almost a million volunteers and 35,000 employees helped victims of almost 75,000 disasters; taught lifesaving skills to millions; and helped U.S. service members separated from their families stay connected. Almost 4 million people gave blood through the Red Cross, the largest U.S. supplier of blood and blood products. The American Red Cross is part of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement. An average of 91 cents of every dollar the Red Cross spends is invested in humanitarian services and programs. The Red Cross is not a government agency; it relies on donations of time, money, and blood to do its work.

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